AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (currently amended) Cells for the production of human helper dependent adenoviral vectors, including at least the following genic units:

- a first genic unit comprising ~~an~~ a human adenovirus defective genome having the inverted terminal repeats in head-to-tail configuration, the encapsidation signal inactivated, and at least one of the non-structural regions inactivated;

- a second genic unit comprising at least one inducible promoter and at least one of the regions inactivated in the first genic unit, said regions being under the control of said inducible promoter;

whereby following the activation of the inducible promoter of the second genic unit and the infection of the cells with said helper dependent adenoviral vectors, the first genic unit and the second genic unit enable the production of said helper dependent adenoviral vectors in said cells in absence of helper vector.

Claim 2. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the first genic unit is integrated in the genome of the cells and has at both the extremities inverted terminal repeats in head-to-tail configuration.

Claim 3. (original) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the first genic unit is included in an episomal unit including an element enabling the replication of said episomal unit in a low number of copies.

Claim 4. (original) Cells according to claim 3, wherein said element enabling the replication of said episomal unit is the origin of replication of a virus.

Claim 5. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 4, wherein the gene coding for an activating factor of said origin of replication is further included in the episomal unit.

Claim 6. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 4, wherein the gene coding for an activating factor of said origin of replication is integrated in the genome.

Claim 7. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 4, wherein said virus is Epstein-Barr virus, the origin of replication is OriP and the activating factor is EBNA-1.

Claim 8. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the encapsidation signal of the adenovirus defective genome of the first genic unit is inactivated by total or partial deletion.

Claim 9. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the non-structural regions of the adenovirus defective genome of the first genic unit is inactivated by total or partial deletion.

Claim 10. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the inactivated regions of the first genic unit are selected from the group consisting of El, E2A, E2B, and E4.

Claim 11. (original) Cells according to claim 10, wherein said regions are El and E4.

Claim 12. (original) Cells according to claim 10, wherein said regions are El, E4 and E2A.

Claim 13. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 10, wherein said regions are El, E4 and E2B polymerase.

Claim 14. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 10, wherein said regions are El, E4 and E2B preterminal protein (PTP).

Claim 15. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 1 wherein the viral regions of the first genic unit is operatively linked to at least one regulatory element enabling the tight control of the expression of said regions.

Claim 16. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 1 wherein the promoter on the second genic unit is the tetracycline operator.

Claim 17. (previously presented) Cells according to claim 1 wherein the viral regions in the second genic unit are operatively linked to elements regulating the expression of said regions.

Claim 18. (canceled)

Claim 19. (currently amended) Cells according to claim [[18]] 1, wherein said adenovirus defective genome of the first genic unit is totally or partially ~~constituted by the genome of at least one of the~~ derived from a human ~~adenoviruses~~ adenovirus selected from the group consisting of Ad2 and Ad5.

Claim 20. (canceled)

Claim 21. (currently amended) Cells according to claim [[20]] 1, wherein said viral regions of the second genic unit[[,]] are totally or partially ~~constituted by the viral regions of at least one of the~~ derived from a human ~~adenoviruses~~ adenovirus selected from the group consisting of Ad2 and Ad5.

Claim 22-23. (canceled).

Claim 24. (previously presented) The cells according to claim 1, wherein said cells are mammalian cells.

Claim 25. (original) The cells according to claim 24, wherein said mammalian cells are human cells.

Claim 26. (previously presented) Compositions comprising the cell of claim 1, a vehicle or a carrier, characterized in that said composition is free of contaminating helper viruses.

Claim 27. (canceled)